

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18393 221116Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /055 W  
-----124331 221224Z /17

R 220820Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5913  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18393

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UR  
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

REF: MOSCOW 18240

1. DURING DECEMBER 21 MEETING WITH CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER AND CC SECRETARY PONOMAREV, AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT HEALTH OF BREZHNEV, SUSLOV AND KOSYGIN, WHO WERE ABSENT FROM RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET MEETING THAT DAY. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO SOME WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS, MR. BREZHNEV HAD THE FLU, ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR DOUBTED THERE WAS ANY REAL BASIS FOR SUCH ACCOUNTS.

2. PONOMAREV RESPONDED THAT SUSLOV'S ABSENCE "MEANT NOTHING;" PONOMAREV HAD SEEN SUSLOV ON DECEMBER 20 AND WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH HIM ON THE 22ND.

3. REGARDING BREZHNEV, PONOMAREV SAID HE WAS NOT A DOCTOR AND DID NOT KNOW IF BREZHNEV HAD THE FLU. BUT PONOMAREV UNDERSTOOD THAT BREZHNEV'S DOCTORS HAD ADVISED THAT HE STAY INDOORS FOR A TIME. BREZHNEV WAS "SIGNING DOCUMENTS," HOWEVER, SUCH AS THE GREETINGS (PRINTED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS DECEMBER 21)  
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FROM BREZHNEV TO A MEETING AT KAZAN UNIVERSITY.  
(PONOMAREV SAID NOTHING ABOUT KOSYGIN'S HEALTH OR WHEREABOUTS).  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW18393  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 18240  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
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